

Message Text

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60

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 SCEM-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 INT-08 FPC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01

SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /079 W

----- 085828

R 120607Z JUL 73 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3040

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4870

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IR

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF PROPANE

REF: STATE 131388

1. ONLY SOURCE IN IRAN FOR EXPORT PROPANE AND OTHER FORMS LPG FOR NEXT 12 MONTHS IS CONSORTIUM'S NGL REFINERAY AT BANDAR MAH SHAHR (BMS). (ABADAN REFINERY PRODUCES VERY SMALL AMOUNTS LPG WHICH CONSUMED ENTIRELY WITHIN IRAN.) BMS LPS IS LIFTED ENTIRELY BY CONSORTIUM MEMBERS OR THEIR CUSTOMERS.

2. PRODUCTION OF LPG DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON CRUDE PRODUCTION SINCE NATURAL GAS LIQUIDS REFINED AT MBS ARE BY-PRODUCTS OF PROCESSING AND TRANSPORTING CRUDE OIL. LPG DELIVERIES ABOARD SHIP AT BMS DURING MAY WERE PROPANE - 437,849 BBLs; BUTANE -434,822 BBLs; NATURAL GASOLINE - 281,632 BBLs. THIS LEVEL WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE MAINTAINED AND MAY EVEN INCREASE SLIGHTLY DURING THE NEXT YEAR. AVAILABILITY OF THIS GAS TO U.S. DEPENDS ON PRESENT COMMITMENTS OF CONSORTIUM MEMBERS AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DIVERT GAS, NOW SOLD ELSEWHERE, TO AMERICAN MARKET.

3. PRICES FLUCTUATE WITH MARKET, BUT CONSORTIUM (PLEASE DO NOT REVEAL AS SOURCE OUTSIDE USG) INFORMALLY ADVISED THAT FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES USES FOLLOWING: PROPANE - \$1.78/BBL, BUTANE - \$1.54/BBL, AND NATURAL GASOLINE (PENTANE PLUS) - \$1.63/BBL. THERE IS VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT GOI WILL IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS OR CONTROLS ON

THESE EXPORTS.
HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Remarks:
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